

There are those who would challenge the preclearance provision, but I maintain if you are not doing anything wrong, if you are not impeding the right to vote, then preclearance is not a burden. In America, we need to encourage more people to vote, not less.

STRONG STAND AGAINST NORTH KOREA

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to emphatically encourage the United Nations to take a strong stand against North Korea.

Last Tuesday, North Korea shocked the world by test-firing missiles, including a long-range Taepodong-2, that could one day be capable of reaching the western United States. Japanese and United States satellite photography have shown movement at North Korean bases that indicate preparations for even further missile launches.

Mr. Speaker, the carrot approach of previous administrations has done nothing to deter Kim Jong-il's erratic and irresponsible behavior.

In 1994, North Korea agreed to freeze and ultimately dismantle its existing plutonium-based nuclear program. However, in December 2002, we learned the North Korean regime was pursuing a nuclear weapons program based on enriched uranium in violation of that agreement.

Mr. Speaker, we must learn from our previous efforts. We cannot stake our national security on meaningless agreements with an unpredictable and maniacal dictator.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in imploring the United Nations to condemn North Korea's actions as a threat to stability around the globe.

SUPPORT H.R. 9, VOTING RIGHTS ACT

(Mr. SCOTT of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, there is no civil rights legislation more important or effective than the Voting Rights Act. The right to vote is the very foundation of our democracy, and as the Supreme Court noted in 1964, other rights, even the most basic, are illusory if the right to vote is undermined.

The Voting Rights Act has made that right a reality. In Virginia, my home State, because of all sorts of schemes and barriers, there were no African American State legislators or Federal legislators, not a single African American State or Federal judge in 1964.

After four decades of the Voting Rights Act which prohibited those schemes and removed those barriers, we now have 18 legislators and over 40 judges serving in Virginia.

We do not need to return to the days before 1965. We do need to extend the expiring provisions of the Voting Rights Act. We should support H.R. 9 without amendment.

□ 1030

IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the American people expect us to stop the flood of illegal immigrants coming to this country. In order to do that we need to secure our borders. We need to crack down on employers that hire illegals and preserve American jobs for Americans. We need to reject all forms of amnesty.

Many talk about a guest worker program. I think most reasonable people believe that a guest worker program in the farming industry, perhaps in the gardening and landscape industries, is reasonable. Beyond that we need to look at what the need of America is, not the need of foreign countries and where they want to place their people. We need to absolutely reject again all forms of amnesty. We need to increase enforcement on current immigration laws.

Today, currently, business owners can go out and find out if the person they are hiring is eligible to work here or if they are not. We need to think about how we are impacting workers. In 1973 the average manufacturing jobs paid \$15.24 an hour. In 2004 it paid \$15.26 an hour. An American worker should not expect his pay to be cut because somebody comes to this country illegally and is willing to work for less than he or she should be paid. We need to protect Americans and protect their jobs.

VOTING RIGHTS ACT REAUTHORIZATION

(Mr. AL GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the Voting Rights Act has been and continues to be necessary. In 1965, we had approximately 300 African Americans holding office. Now we have more than 9,100.

In 1965, only a handful of Latinos held office. Now, more than 6,000.

In 1965, six Members of Congress were African American. Now 43.

But among the many beneficiaries is Hubert Vo. Hubert Vo was born in Vietnam. Hubert Vo came to the United States at the age of 19, fleeing communism. Hubert Vo graduated from the University of Houston, but more importantly, Hubert Vo, in 2004, became the very first Vietnamese American elected to the State House of Texas. Hubert Vo was elected because the bal-

lot in District 149 is in Vietnamese. Hubert Vo won by 16 votes.

The Voting Rights Act has made, continues to make a difference. We need to maintain it. We need to keep it. It protects the rights of minorities.

VOTING RIGHTS ACT REAUTHORIZATION

(Ms. LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is really with a deep sense of gratitude to Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, Coretta Scott King and our great warrior, Congressman JOHN LEWIS, that I rise in support of the renewal of the Voting Rights Act.

There is no way that I would be standing on this floor today as a Member of Congress had it not been for the bloodshed and the sacrifices and oftentimes the deaths of so many fighting for all Americans for their right to vote.

And I vividly remember the days of Jim Crow and segregation and the insidious poll tax growing up in Texas. The humiliation and the discrimination and the degradation of African Americans will always be a scar on America's history.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed just 1 year after I graduated from high school. And unfortunately, we still need to renew these expiring provisions, and we shouldn't weaken any of the protections in this legislation.

We still witness voter intimidation and voter suppression in our country. But I am reminded of the tremendous progress and the march to freedom and equality, but also of the unfinished business of America during the very powerful civil rights pilgrimages that some of us go on to Selma and to Birmingham and to Montgomery, Alabama. In memory of all of those who paid the supreme price for our democracy, let us pass this bill today and let's pass it on a bipartisan basis.

VOTING RIGHTS ACT REAUTHORIZATION

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Voting Rights Reauthorization Act of 2006.

Many brave men and women have fought against bigotry, injustice, inequality to secure the voting rights for all Americans. Many of our veterans who serve now and in the past, of all colors, of all races, have fought for the freedom that we enjoy today. They have sacrificed their lives so that every individual has the right to exercise their voting right.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 is one of the greatest achievements of Congress because it has torn down arbitrary barriers to voting participation.